

July 23, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, District of Columbia 20554

Re: Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, Third Report and Order - MB Docket No. 05-311

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I would like to express my immense disapproval of the Federal Communications Commission's proposed Third Report and Order requiring Local Franchising Authorities to treat cable-related, in-kind contributions as franchise fees subject to the statutory five percent franchise fee cap. This change would be devastating to the PEG facility that I — and my community — rely on.

I am involved with my local television station, Chelmsford TeleMedia (located in Chelmsford, Massachusetts). I am a sophomore enrolled in Chelmsford High School, and I have been working with CTM for the past 3 years— both as a volunteer and part of CHSTv (a school club which allows students to participate in all aspects of production), which is supported by CTM. Our town heavily relies on them for the spread of information, which is very important. This loss of revenue caused by the Order would be detrimental to their success, which would have a disastrous effect on the Town of Chelmsford.

Through this program, I have received many opportunities which I wouldn't have otherwise as a high school student. I know that what I have learned about television production will benefit me in the future, whether I decide to continue working in the industry after high school or choose to come back and continue volunteering with CTM after I graduate. Many alumni choose to come back and support Chelmsford TeleMedia, because it has made an impact on their lives and they want to continue contributing to its success. In addition, I know many former students who graduated and went to further their education in live broadcast or post production at many highly acclaimed schools. They now work in the industry, and are successfully producing material that is highly regarded in the minds of the public. They couldn't have made these accomplishments without the education and support that CTM provided them.

The presence of CTM is important not just to those directly involved with production, but also to the entire Town of Chelmsford. Chelmsford, MA is home to over 35,000 people, all of which are reliant on local broadcasts to provide them with information about the community they live in. This information can consist of news about our local government, events in the town (such as

parades, town meetings, and sports games), reports on our local school system, and much more. In addition, CTM covers many school events, including sports games, plays, and concerts. It is important to these athletes, musicians, and actors that these events are covered because it gives them a record of what could be a valuable memory in years to come. Also, many members of the town are reliant on these broadcasts because they cannot leave their homes to come see the event live. If CTM wasn't able to provide these people with the chance to experience these events from their home, they would be forced to miss out on them and be further isolated from other community members.

Citizens are also given the opportunity to use this channel to express their views to the greater community, making it one of the only ways that any town resident can easily and effectively reach the town's entire population. In today's day and age, this communication channel is more important than ever.

Because of the importance of Chelmsford TeleMedia in this community, any loss of funding to them would have a severe impact on the lives of all members of Chelmsford, Massachusetts. Also, what is proposed by the FCC would cause similar situations in countless communities across the country. This Order may force governing bodies to divert resources away from services currently granted to the town and schools to maintain existing programming, or to take funding away from PEG channels and dramatically reduce the quality and scope of the programs provided to the town. This does not seem to be in the best interest of the public, in fact, it seems to go against the public interest which the FCC should be protecting. I respectfully urge you to reconsider going forward with this Order.

Sincerely,

Sarah Evans